

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method for operating an aircraft includes the steps of receiving guidance instructions and guidance parameters at a navigation computer, and transmitting automatic pilot instructions from the navigation computer to a flight control computer. The method also includes the steps of receiving control instructions and the automatic pilot instructions at the flight control computer, and generating operating commands at the flight control computer. In an automatic pilot mode, the operating commands are generated at the flight control computer based on the automatic pilot instructions.